In the US each year, 1.5 million people sustained brain injury. In 2004 in New Hampshire, 4323 individuals sustained a brain injury.

What is SteppingStones?
The Krempels Brain Injury Foundation (TKBIF) is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of people affected by brain injury from trauma, tumor, and stroke. People who have experienced a brain injury, and their family members, often find themselves isolated and facing radically new personal challenges. TKBIF operates SteppingStones, a community-based day program for survivors of brain injury. The program emphasizes health and wellness while empowering members toward new opportunities and meaning after injury. In addition, it provides members and their families with the support needed to meet their personal challenges.

Collaboration and Partnership
In 2000, TKBIF teamed up with UNH’s College of Health and Human Services (CHHS) to provide brain injury survivors with long-term support to meet their many needs. Currently, UNH faculty and 40+ students from five CHHS departments provide resources to over 75 active members.

Ongoing Projects
Faculty and students from UNH are involved in a number of projects that are not only meeting the long-term needs of survivors but are also designed to enhance the educational experience of students and to educate the Seacoast community about the impact of brain injury. These projects have been partially funded by support from The Beaumont Foundation of America, the UNH Office of the Vice President for Research, the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation and private donors:

Outcome Measurement: Data is being collected to determine the effect that SteppingStones is having on the quality of life of its members.

TKBIF Oral History Project: An online collection of interviews from brain injury survivors that increases awareness of and educates students and the public about the impact of brain injury. The project was featured in a November 2006 article in the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association’s publication, The ASHA Leader, and highlights the stories of the “silent epidemic” of brain injury.

Interdisciplinary Collaboration: University students are gaining valuable insight into the roles of their own disciplines and those of their colleagues. In addition, they have the opportunity to enhance their clinical skills as they facilitate therapeutic groups that address the needs of brain injury survivors.

More info at: [www.krempelsfoundation.org](http://www.krempelsfoundation.org) and [www.chhs.unh.edu](http://www.chhs.unh.edu)

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